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Welcome!

Welcome to the May edition of the *QGPR Weekly*.

QGPR is a not-for-profit community service organisation and is 100% volunteer and donation based, having an extraordinary and hard-working team of volunteers, foster carers and other behind the scenes assistants.

All of these wonderful people donate their time and money to QGPR, and are the backbone of this organisation.

Beth – Editor

Around the Refuge

We have settled in well at our new location, having now had the last three open days there. Since moving to Bracken Ridge, we have had a total of 42 piggies adopted. It's great to have so many people follow us to our new location and also to see many new faces. We also have some new faces in our group with foster carers and volunteers who help out on open days. Feel free to pop in and say hello.

The weather is starting to cool down so it's important to keep your piggies nice and warm. Due to the cooler months, we will cease our piggy bathing service. Guinea pigs do get cold very easily, so bathing is not a good idea in cooler weather.

Jodie – QGPR Chairperson

What's On

next OPEN day
Saturday 16th May 10am-4pm
 Please note that adoption requires pre-approval. A link to our online adoption form can be found on our facebook page or website.
 Forms need to be submitted at least 2 days prior to open day for processing.
 More details... **QLD Guinea Pig Refuge**

Piggies for Adoption



Torbin and Lewis

Torbin and Lewis are the closest of buddies. Being the oldest of the pair, Torbin is more laid back than Lewis and is quite content to sit and have his chin rubbed. Cheeky Lewis has a lot more energy and prefers to go exploring, but will sit for cuddles for shorter periods of time. What a sweet pair of faces!



Anna Marie

Anna-Marie is a beautiful piggie looking for a forever home. She is happy to be on her own and would suit a quiet home as she is timid by nature.

She does not get along with other piggies and just needs a human to love her.

While guinea pigs are herd animals and should always have a friend, Anna-Marie has rejected every piggie we have tried her with, ranging from baby females, adult females and desexed males. After being on her own for a long time, Anna-Marie deserves a family who will love her instead of being on permanent foster care.

These piggies, and many more, are looking for their forever homes and are \$15 each. Desexed males are \$30 each. They come fully health checked, worm and mite treated, and are living at their foster carer's home where they receive lots of handling time. If you are interested in adopting, please fill out our [Adoption Enquiry Form](#).

Sponsorship

Sponsoring allows you to help us help piggies in need.



Axel and Cheddar were transferred to QGPR by another refuge when it reached maximum capacity. Both brothers had large cysts on their backs which have now been removed. They have anal impaction which needs to be cleared regularly. These boys are seniors at around seven years old. They will be living out the rest of their lives with a foster carer unless a special home becomes available for them.

All sponsorship and one-off donations over \$2 are completely tax deductible. For further information, please visit the [Sponsor](#) section on our website.

QGPR Online Shop

If you can make it to our open days, you will be surprised at the amount of stock we have available. Not only do we have our own special Pig'n'Mix and hay for sale, we have lots of stock to help make your piggies' lives happy and comfortable, from water bottles to indoor and patio hutches.



Like our online shop sales, all profits go directly back into the rescue, rehabilitation and care of QGPR guinea pigs. So if you are local to Brisbane and surrounds, come along to our open days and see what we have in stock.

Meet the Team

Jane

A little about you:

I am based in Sydney where I also volunteer for Porsche's Rescue. I am married with four adult children. Currently, I have 31 guinea pigs in care, as well as three rabbits, two dogs, two cats, two goldfish and 12 finches. No partridge in a pear tree! Yet!

I help look after the QGPR Facebook page and am the buyer and stock chaser for the refuge and online shop.

I like to think I don't nag, but rather I'm a motivational speaker and love shopping for a bargain!

How did you become a piggy volunteer and foster parent?

I have had guinea pigs for about 35 years. I originally joined ACS Brisbane, liking the fact that ACS has sanctuaries in Melbourne and Sydney as well. When ACS Brisbane closed down, I moved with most of the volunteers to help start QGPR. So you won't meet me at open days, but there is every chance I have replied to your messages on occasion! I foster to hopefully stop people dumping guinea pigs in parks and bins etc. and give them a chance for a loving forever home.

Most memorable piggy moment?

Most memorable piggy moment would have to be seeing sick guinea pigs returned to health and finding good homes through the formation of great refuges, sanctuaries and rescues.



What is something people may not know about guinea pigs?

Did you know that doctors in the Andes Mountains in South America have been known to use guinea pigs to find illnesses in people? They put the guinea pig up against the sick person and it will let out a squeak when close to where the disease is.

Health Facts

Common Signs of Illness

As guinea pigs are prey animals, they are very good at hiding signs of illness, often until it is too late. It is important to look out for these common signs of illness and see a vet as soon as possible if you notice any.

Signs of illness for piggies

Common signs that you need to see a vet

- ★ Refusal to eat
- ★ Sudden weight loss or gain
- ★ Laboured breathing
- ★ Wheezing
- ★ Bleeding

Crawley Guinea Pig Rescue, UK

- ★ Lethargy or hunched up posture
- ★ Swollen abdomen
- ★ Behaviour changes
- ★ Lumps

- ★ Dull, cloudy or receding eyes
- ★ Crusty eyes or sneezing
- ★ Drooling
- ★ Hair loss
- ★ Sore paws
- ★ Excessive scratching
- ★ Limping or hopping
- ★ Sores on feet or skin

- ★ Calcium/grit in urine
- ★ Squashy or watery poo
- ★ No faeces
- ★ Blood in urine
- ★ Inability to, or pain when, urinating

Lauren Sutton

Glynneath Guinea Pig Rescue, UK

Any concerns about your piggie?

Contact your **cavy savvy** vet now!

Information Source: Guinea Lynx, Piggy Bank UK

The Guinea Pig Community

Please note that information provided is general only. If you have any concerns about your guinea pig's health, please ensure you seek appropriate veterinary care.

Piggy Food Facts

Herbs

There are a wide variety of herbs that guinea pigs love to eat which are not only tasty for them, but very nutritious too. These herbs include, but are not limited to: coriander,

parsley, rocket, mint, dill, oregano, thyme, fennel and endive.

Parsley is high in calcium so should be fed sparingly, especially to older guinea pigs. Any new foods should always be introduced in small amounts and over a period of time to ensure guinea pigs suffer no ill effects.

Herbs can either be bought fresh from the supermarket or, for a cheaper and more sustainable way, they are simple to grow together in pots on a window sill which can just be cut and fed to your guinea pigs when required.

Herbs can be fed alongside other fruits and vegetables as part of a healthy, varied diet. Always ensure your guinea pigs have fresh water and hay available to them at all times.



To access the QGPR food list on our Facebook page, click [here](#).

QLD Guinea Pig Refuge...

...are pleased to provide Pig'n'Mix, Hay and Mite & Worm treatment at locations other than our shelter. Please use the contact information below for your closest location to arrange a suitable time with our volunteer. At least 24 hours notice is appreciated.

Pig'n'Mix - \$5 per bag | Hay Biscuit - \$4 | Worm & Mite Treatment - \$5 per pig

Please ask about our loyalty programs!

Location	Contact	Pig'n'Mix	Hay	Mite & Worm
Jimboomba	jlc8330@hotmail.com	✓	✓	✓
Bracken Ridge	oatjodie@gmail.com	✓	✓	✓
Bray Park	0490423405	✓		✓
The Gap	achkruse@live.com.au	✓		✓
Lockrose	jessicareay353@hotmail.com	✓		✓
Browns Plains	aaronskywroe@hotmail.com	✓		✓
Thorneside	mel_03@live.com.au	✓	✓	✓
Mt Cotton	natalie.garden@qimr.edu.au	✓	✓	✓
Wynnum	chris.rollie89@gmail.com	✓	✓	

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